

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preparing a dihydroxybiaryl compound comprising:
 - (a) providing an alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound; and
 - (b) contacting said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound with a corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said dihydroxybiaryl compound is 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound is p-bromophenol or p-chlorophenol.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound is the sodium salt of 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl or the potassium salt of 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said dihydroxybiaryl compound is 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound is 2-methyl-4-bromophenol or 2-methyl-4-chlorophenol.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound is the sodium salt of 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl or the potassium salt of 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein a temperature ranging from about 20° C to about 120° C is employed.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein a molar ratio of said corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound to said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound of at least 2:1 is employed.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising after step (b), the steps of:
 - (c) removing a precipitate formed by said contacting step from a solution formed by said contacting step, wherein said precipitate comprises said dihydroxybiaryl compound; and
 - (d) recycling the remaining solution comprising an alkali metal salt of said monohydroxyaryl halide compound to form additional said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound by contacting said remaining solution with a metal catalyst, an alkali metal hydroxide, and a reducing agent.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein said metal catalyst is palladium, and said reducing agent is formic hydrazide.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein said metal catalyst is palladium, and said reducing agent is hydrogen gas.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein said hydrogen gas is employed at a pressure ranging from about 1 atm to about 350 kilopascals.
14. The method of claim 10, wherein said alkali metal hydroxide is potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide.
15. The method of claim 10, wherein a temperature ranging from about 20° C to about 120 °C is employed.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein said dihydroxybiaryl compound is 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl, said corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound is p-bromophenol or p-chlorophenol, and said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound is the sodium salt of 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl or the potassium salt of 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein said dihydroxybiaryl compound is 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl, said corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound is 2-methyl-4-bromophenol or 2-methyl-4-chlorophenol, and said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound is the sodium salt of 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl or the potassium salt of 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein a molar ratio of said alkali metal hydroxide to said alkali metal salt of said monohydroxyaryl halide compound of at least 1:1 is employed.

19. A method for isolating a dihydroxybiaryl compound comprising:

- (a) providing an alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound;
- (b) contacting said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound with a corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound to form a precipitate in a solution; and
- (c) separating said precipitate from said solution, wherein said precipitate comprises said dihydroxybiaryl compound.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said dihydroxybiaryl compound is 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl, wherein said corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound is p-bromophenol or p-chlorophenol, and wherein said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound is the sodium salt of 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl or the potassium salt of 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein said dihydroxybiaryl compound is 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl, wherein said corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound is 2-methyl-4-bromophenol or 2-methyl-4-chlorophenol, and wherein said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound is the sodium salt of 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl or the potassium salt of 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein a molar ratio of said corresponding monohydroxyaryl halide compound to said alkali metal salt of said dihydroxybiaryl compound of at least 2:1 is employed.

23. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of washing said separated precipitate with water or methanol at least one time.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of recrystallizing said washed precipitate to provide a purified dihydroxybiaryl compound having a purity of at least 90 %.